

Texas leadership must now show compassion to its future and provide a means for them to live healthy lives.

HONORING GAIL NOLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today on the behalf of the Waterford, Michigan School District, who will be honoring one of their own. On June 14, members of the school district, as well as family and friends, will gather to honor the career of Ms. Gail Nolin, who is retiring after 34 glorious years.

In 1966, Gail Nolin began her career with Waterford Schools, teaching third, fourth, and fifth grades at Cooley Elementary School. Gail's tenure at Cooley lasted 18 years. Gail brought with her many unique and creative opportunities for her students to learn, including painting a large map of Michigan in the school parking lot, and constructing a large rocket ship. Many times, she incorporated art and music in her lessons, giving her students early exposure to fine arts and a well-rounded curriculum. She later moved up to teach upper elementary, where she involved parents in presenting technology to students, and helped pilot the district's first elementary computer network, acting as systems operator with Gladys Baker.

In 1991, Gail began a new role within the District, that of Technology Consultant. She diligently worked along with Dick Elsholz and Randy Gross to implement a program that would allow third grade to fifth grade teachers to integrate computer technology into their curriculum. She served as a member of the Institutional Technology Planning Committee, and co-chaired the first elementary technology plan.

Gail not only had an accomplished academic career, but a political career that has spanned nearly three decades.

A member of the Waterford Education Association, Michigan Education Association, and National Education Association, Gail has always remained a member in good standing and a role model for her peers. She has served the WEA as a member of its Human Rights Commission and Negotiations Committee, as well as other leadership roles with the union. As a member of the MEA, Gail has been an executive officer since 1985, and also sits on the Staff Retirement Board and Legislative Committee. She has operated as the MEA representative to the NEA on several occasions.

Gail's strong belief in our democratic system has allowed her an audience with not only members of Congress, but senators, Cabinet members, and several presidents, on issues such as Title I and equal rights. Gail was invited to the White House by President Carter to participate in discussions regarding the drafting of women into the military.

These experiences also led her to a stint as an assistant to Congressman Bob Carr, and the opportunity in 1993, where President Clinton met and bowed with her eighth grade students.

Mr. Speaker, Gail Nolin is my educational colleague and my friend. For many years, I

have benefitted from her insight, as has the entire Waterford community over the course of the last 34 years. She has always been a fighter for education, for she believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Gail Nolin on her retirement, and wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HARVEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional man, Michael Harvey. In May, Mr. Harvey traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the "Star of Life" award, the highest honor presented to paramedics. Mr. Harvey received the award because of his dedicated service to his community and his fellow man as a paramedic. Mr. Harvey embodies the goals that this award stands for and we all can learn from the proud example he has set.

As you know Mr. Speaker, paramedics work tirelessly and selflessly to serve their fellow man. Mr. Harvey and his fellow paramedics are expected to perform in difficult—even perilous—situations on a daily basis. Mr. Harvey's service and sacrifice in his field clearly merit both the "Star of Life" award and the respect and admiration of this great body.

It is obvious why Mr. Harvey was chosen as the recipient of the "Star of Life" award. I think that we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the State of Colorado. Due to Mr. Harvey's dedication, it is clear that Colorado is a better and safer place in which to live.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you and congratulations to Mike Harvey on this outstanding accomplishment. Your community, state and nation are all very proud of you, Mike. Keep up the good work.

SALUTE TO URSULA SHERMAN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I salute, congratulate, and honor Ursula Sherman.

Ms. Sherman has been a founding and active Board member of Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) for more than 29 years.

Ms. Sherman came to California in 1938 after her family spent five years in Paris as refugees from Nazi Germany. She learned the importance of volunteerism as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin and during her year as a researcher at the Nuremberg trials, where she fully grasped the concept that there but for the grace of God go I.

Ms. Sherman became an advocate for youth as a children's librarian and University of California at Berkeley visiting lecturer. In her "other" vocation as a community activist organizer, she worked hard at integrating Berkeley schools in the late sixties. She and members

of the Jewish Community organized the Hillel Streetwork project, which later became Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency or BOSS. This organization continues to serve the homeless and mentally-disabled populations in the East Bay, thanks to her leadership 29 years ago.

In addition to her work in BOSS, Ms. Sherman is also a past or current board member of such organizations as The Jewish Music Festival, The Traveling Jewish Theater, the American Jewish Congress of Northern California and the Berkeley Public Library Foundation.

In honor of Ms. Sherman's many contributions to our community, BOSS is hosting a Tea Ceremony in her honor at the Rose Garden Inn in Berkeley, California. Proceeds from this event will benefit BOSS's 21st Century Charitable Fund which is dedicated to ending poverty and homelessness in our community.

I proudly join the friends and colleagues of Ursula Sherman in recognizing her community leadership and activism, as well as celebrating her many years of extraordinary service to the people and organizations of the East Bay.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS FERNANDEZ

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lois Fernandez, president and co-founder of Odunde, a cultural organization that for 25 years has sponsored the Odunde Festival, one of Philadelphia's brightest cultural attractions and one of the largest African American festivals in the United States.

Odunde, which among the Yoruba of Nigeria means Happy New Year, is the greeting that first meets the more than 300,000 people who attend the Odunde festival. The festival transforms a 10-block area in the First Congressional District into a veritable West African marketplace complete with African, African American and Caribbean vendors selling crafts, clothing and food.

Those attending the festival can also take part in a traditional Yoruba ceremony that pays respect to Oshun, a Yoruba deity. The festival also offers a broad assortment of performances by musicians, dancers, singers and poets.

Ms. Fernandez has enriched our community by providing sorely needed education regarding the rich culture and history of Africa and the Africans of the diaspora.

For a quarter of a century Ms. Fernandez has been a formidable force for social change in our city and she has provided us with an invaluable cultural legacy.

HATE CRIMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, sitting on a bench, riding on a bus, or even walking down the street, a hate crime can occur anytime or any place. Hate crimes are acts of